

**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

**U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/957,400**

1. (Currently Amended): An engine muffler comprising ~~a sound absorbing material interposed between~~ an internal tube and an external tube concentrically spaced therefrom and defining a concentric space therebetween, wherein ~~and~~ a projection projecting ~~toward into~~ the sound absorbing material is formed ~~on in~~ the external tube in spaced relation from said internal tube along almost and extending substantially about the entire periphery of said external tube thereof, ~~the projection spaced from said internal tube~~.
2. (Currently Amended): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the sound absorbing material comprises a plurality of kinds of sound absorbing materials having different heat resisting properties and sound absorbing capabilities, and is interposed between said tubes in a state of being multilayered in the direction of thickness.
3. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the sound absorbing material comprises stainless wool disposed on the outer periphery of the internal tube and glass wool layered on the outer periphery thereof.
4. (Original): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising an exhaust air guiding tube provided inside of the internal tube.

5. (Currently Amended): An engine muffler as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:  
wherein said projection is defined by a recess formed by forming the projection by  
pressing pressed inwardly into a portion of the external tube, inwardly;  
and including a stay for holding suspending the muffler ~~by suspending the same~~ from the  
a bottom portion of the vehicle body of the a automobile; and  
said stay ~~being provided integrally in~~ engaging the recess along the projection.

6. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler comprising the  
steps of:

providing a pair of concentrically disposed tubes;  
interposing a sound absorbing material, comprising a multilayered plurality of kinds of  
sound absorbing materials having different heat resisting properties and sound absorbing  
capabilities to substantially fill a space between an internal tube and an external tube forming  
said pair of tubes; and

thereafter drawing the end of the external tube ~~to form~~ wherein a projection  
projecting toward into the sound absorbing material is formed ~~on the external tube~~ along almost  
substantially the entire periphery thereof, the projection of the external tube and to a position  
spaced from said internal tube, after inserting the sound absorbing material between the internal  
~~tube and the external tube but before drawing the end of the external tube.~~

7. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler ~~as set forth in~~  
Claim 6, comprising the steps of: interposing a sound absorbing material between the internal  
tube and the external tube; and drawing the end of the external tube, wherein a projection  
projecting toward the sound absorbing material is formed on the external tube along almost the  
entire periphery thereof after inserting the sound absorbing material between the internal tube and  
the external tube but before drawing the end of the external tube, and

wherein a sound absorbing material and the internal tube is inserted into the external tube  
formed generally into a straight tube in a first place, then a projection is formed on the external  
tube, and then both ends of the external tube are drawn into a tapered shape.

8. (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an engine muffler ~~as set forth in~~  
Claim 6, comprising the steps of: interposing a sound absorbing material between the internal  
tube and the external tube; and drawing the end of the external tube, wherein a projection  
projecting toward the sound absorbing material is formed on the external tube along almost the  
entire periphery thereof after inserting the sound absorbing material between the internal tube and  
the external tube but before drawing the end of the external tube; and

wherein a sound absorbing material and a internal tube are inserted into the external tube  
one end of which is drawn into a tapered shape in a first place, then a projection is formed on the  
external tube, and then the other end of the external tube is drawn into a tapered shape.

one end of which is drawn into a tapered shape in a first place, then a projection is formed on the external tube, and then the other end of the external tube is drawn into a tapered shape.

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